



## **Health Professionals Voice Support**

“I want to applaud Senator Frist for his leadership in sponsoring this important measure. Since coming to the Senate 10 years ago, Senator First has played a pivotal role in advancing legislation aimed at improving the quality of health care for all Americans. The ‘Closing the Health Care Gap Act’ represents an important step in our ongoing effort to eliminate health disparities in this country.”

**--Dr. Louis W. Sullivan**  
**Former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary;**  
**President Emeritus of Morehouse School of Medicine**

“The National Hispanic Medical Association recognizes Senator Frist’s and Senator Landrieu’s leadership for introducing the ‘Closing the Health Care Gap Act 2004’ and calling for standardizing quality measures for data and research across the Federal government, enhancing the Office of Minority Health to provide grants for language services and cultural competence and to increase the recruiting of minority students to the health professions --- that will all tremendously improve the health of the Hispanic community.”

**--Dr. Elena Rios**  
**President, National Hispanic Medical Association**

“I want to commend Senator Frist for his persistent efforts to advance legislation aimed at reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities in health. The ‘Closing the Health Care Gap Act’ targets disparities in access to quality health care. It promotes diversity in health professions education and a balanced research agenda to better understand and intervene where disparities exists.”

**--Dr. David Satcher**  
**Former Surgeon General; Director, The National**  
**Center for Primary Care**

“This legislation is a step in the right direction. We commend the bi-partisan efforts by Senator Bill Frist and Senator Mary Landrieu that will begin to address the major health disparities in minority communities today that are high on agenda of the National Urban League.”

**--Marc H. Morial**  
**President and CEO, National Urban League**

"The Board of Directors of The Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons support the efforts of Senator Frist and Senator Landrieu to eliminate health disparities in minority populations. As a physician and a senator, Senator Frist is uniquely positioned to make positive change in minority access to healthcare. We are certain that their determination and leadership will prevail. The Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons is prepared to support and assist Senator Frist and Senator Landrieu in this endeavor."

**--Dr. Rene Rodriguez**  
**President, Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons**

"As a leading voice for parity in American health care, the National Medical Association [NMA] is pleased to support *Closing the Healthcare Gap Act of 2004*. Specifically, the following provisions represent significant strides in the right direction -- the commitment to creating uniform standards for data collection; the affirmation of the need to increase the number of minority health professionals in the health care workforce; and the development of an Internet clearinghouse to reduce medical errors and increase cultural competency."

**--Dr. Randall Maxey**  
**President, National Medical Association**

"The Closing the Health Care Gap Act, being introduced today by Senator Frist and others, will enable those institutions which have a historical commitment to training individuals to serve minority and medically underserved communities to continue that mission which is critical to the national interest. I, along with my colleagues at the other minority health professions schools, look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with Senator Frist and his colleagues to pass this important legislation."

**--Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr.**  
**President, Meharry Medical College; President, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools**

Aetna has made eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care a high priority in our business and also the focus of our philanthropic activities. We view this as a quality of care issue and are collecting data that we can use to create interventions to help people at risk get access to needed care. This is a critical issue that affects the health of our nation. Therefore, we applaud Senator Frist's actions in spearheading a broad set of initiatives to address health disparities. His commitment to identify the barriers in care and develop a comprehensive plan will greatly improve the quality of life for all Americans.®

**BDr. John Rowe**  
**Chairman, Aetna**

"Today, by introducing the Closing the Health Care Gap Act, Dr. Frist has made good on his pledge to take an aggressive leadership role in solving national health status disparities. This legislative initiative has been a long time coming, but it has been carefully crafted and will make a tremendous difference in the ability of federal agencies, working with those communities most adversely affected to address health status disparities."

**--Dr. James R. Gavin III**  
**President, Morehouse School of Medicine**